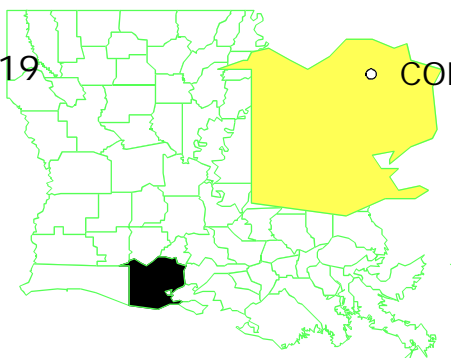


# D.L. MUD, INC.

## LOUISIANA

EPA ID# LAD981058019



## EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 07

Vermilion Parish

Other Names:  
Galveston-Houston Yard

Updated 7/1/97

## Site Description

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- Location:**
- 2.5 miles southwest of Abbeville, Louisiana.
  - 1.5 miles west of Vermilion River.
  - Adjacent to Gulf Coast Vacuum Services Superfund Site.
- Population:**
- 13,000 in Abbeville, Louisiana.
  - 50,000 in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana
- Setting:**
- The Site, approximately 12.78 acres, is an inactive drilling mud facility and a vacant lot.
  - Approximately 2,600 people obtain drinking water, and about 1,000 acres are irrigated, from private wells within three miles of the site.
  - 9,000 acres are irrigated with potentially threatened surface water.
- Hydrology:**
- Possible surface drainage to Le Boeuf Canal, Coulee Galleque, and eventually to Vermilion River.
  - An average of 20 feet of alluvial terrace deposits overlie the shallow sand aquifer that is used for drinking water and irrigation.

## Wastes and Volumes

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### Principal Pollutants:

- Mercury, chromium, arsenic, lead, zinc, barium.
- Petroleum related hydrocarbons.

### Volume:

- Residual barium contamination at a depth of 2 feet in soil (approx. 20,000 cubic yards of soil).
- Tentatively identified hydrocarbon contaminants located in three abandoned pits (approx. 1100 cu. yds.).

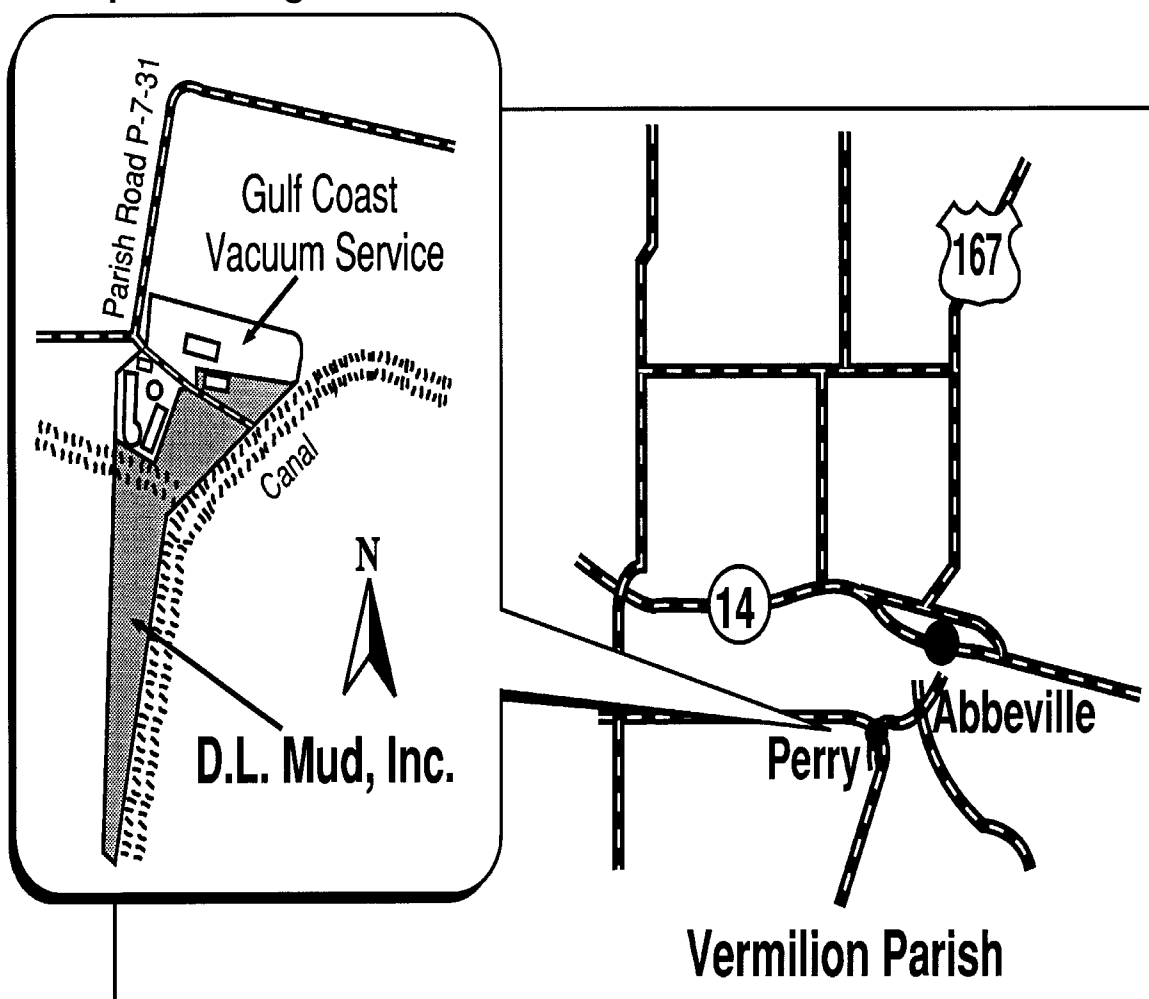
## Site Assessment and Ranking

### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 32.37  
Proposed Date: 6/24/88  
Final Date: 10/4/89  
NPL Update: No. 7

- A former owner, Dowell-Schlumberger, commented that the score should be lowered because it conducted a cleanup at the site. EPA responded that, even though the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) accepted the cleanup as sufficient for a proper closure, it occurred after the ranking system had taken place and therefore would not affect the score.

## Site Map and Diagram



# The Remediation Process

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## Site History:

- 1969-1980 (prior to division of the 25.56 acres of property), the portion of the property that later became the D.L. Mud site was used as a barium sulfate based drilling mud storage and formulating facility. Drilling muds and fluids were stored in 16 on-site tanks.
- October 1, 1980: Galveston Houston Fluid Services sold 12.78 acres to Gulf Coast Vacuum Services, Inc.
- February 11, 1981: Remaining 12.78 acres sold to Dowell Division of the Dow Chemical Company (Dow).
- May 1983: Debris and some contaminated soils were removed by Dow.
- April 1984: Ownership transferred from Dowell Fluid Services to Dowell Schlumberger, Inc. (DSI)
- March 1985: Sold by DSI to D.L. Mud, Inc., which went out of business in 1986.
- April-July 1987: Dow/DSI removal action conducted with LDEQ's supervision.
- 1.3 million pounds of solids and 14,800 gallons of liquids from the tanks were disposed and the tanks were dismantled. Soil was excavated from the tank bases and from the south end of the property.
- The removal of soils, muds, and solid waste by the PRPs and LDEQ eliminated the major sources of contamination and reduced the potential of exposure to contamination at the Site.
- December 1992: Findings from the Remedial Investigation indicate low level risks still on site.
- November 1993: PRPs conducted Feasibility Study to address low level risks.
- April 26, 1994: Proposed Plan describes EPA's preferred alternative of institutional controls (deed restrictions, fencing) to address low level risks from residual surface soil contamination and excavation and off site disposal of subsurface soil contamination associated with the pit bottoms.
- September 1994: Record of Decision describes the selected remedy (EPA's preferred alternative) and responds to public comment on the Proposed Plan.

## Health Considerations:

- Potential for contamination of water supply used as drinking water for 2,600 people and of surface water to irrigate 9,000 acres.
- Potential risk to future residents from residual surface soil contamination.

## Other Environmental Risks:

- Potential for contamination of Vermilion River, which flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

## Record of Decision

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Signed: September 22, 1994

- Institutional controls to address low level risks from surface soil contaminated with residual barium.
- Excavation and off site disposal of contaminated sludges and subsurface soils.
- Limited ground water monitoring to ensure that residual barium contaminants left on site do not migrate into usable drinking water sources.

### Other Remedies Considered and Reason Not Chosen

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. No Action              | Does not meet long-term effectiveness and permanence.             |
| 2. Soil Capping           | Effectiveness and cost not justified against selected remedy.     |
| 3. Barium Treatment       | Potential implementation problems and high cost.                  |
| 4. Biological Landfarming | Potential implementation problems and questionable effectiveness. |

## Community Involvement

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- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 11/90
- Open houses and workshops: 9/90, 10/93, 8/95, 7/96
- Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 4/94, 5/94
- ROD Fact Sheet: 3/95
- Milestone/Status Fact Sheets: 5/90; 12/93, 7/96
- Citizens on site mailing list: 334
- Constituency Interest: Citizens supportive of EPA's efforts.
- Site Repository: Vermilion Parish Library, 200 North Street, Abbeville, LA 70511

## Technical Assistance Grant

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- Availability Notice: 08/04/89
- Letters of Intent Received: 08/20/89
  - 1) Vermilion Association to Protect the Environment (VAPE)
- Final Application Received: VAPE submitted final application for grant on 6/1/90.
- Grant Award: 9/27/90; The initial three-year budget period was extended through 9/30/96, and a second extension request is now being prepared by VAPE to utilize the remaining grant funds.
- Current Status: VAPE selected Wilma Subra as the Technical Advisor on 12/31/90.

## Fiscal and Program Management

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- **Remedial Project Manager:** Stephen L. Tzhone, 214-665-8409, EPA (6SF-LP)
- **State Contact:** Rich Johnson, 504-765-0487, LDEQ
- **Community Involvement Coordinator:** Verne McFarland, 214-665-6617, EPA (6SF-PO)
- **Attorney:** Keith W. Smith, 214-665-2157, EPA (6SF-DL)
- **State Coordinator:** Joe Massey, 214-665-7408, EPA (6SF-LL)
- **Prime Contractor:** None
- **Oversight Contractor:** None

### Cost Recovery: Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Lead (Enforcement)

- PRPs Identified: 97
- Viable PRP: 72
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) General Notice/104(e) letters issued August 1989.
- RI/FS Special Notice Letters issued December 1989.
- Administrative Order on Consent requiring PRPs to conduct RI/FS was signed June 21, 1990.
- RD/RA Special Notice Letters issued April 25, 1996.

## Present Status and Issues

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- Negotiations and settlement for RD/RA.

## Benefits

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- Selected remedy at the site eliminated exposure of barium residuals in approximately 20,000 cubic yards of surface soils and 1,100 cubic yards of pit bottoms contaminated with tentatively identified organics.
- Remediation of wastes conforms to appropriate provisions of Louisiana Statewide Order 29-B Pit Closure Requirements.
- Installation of ground water monitoring wells ensures long-term protection of usable drinking water sources for 2600 people living within 3 miles of the site and irrigation water for 1000 acres of croplands.
- Risk reduction will ensure that the health of future area residents is protected.